

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend Claim 1-13, 17 and 18. Please also delete claims 14, 15, and 16 and amend the application to include claims 21-38 as shown below:

1. (Currently Amended) A selective narrative data base and system, comprising:
 - (a) means for providing access to a common carrier, said common carrier adapted to transmit a file of audio signals from a first location to a second location;
 - (b) a server connected to said common carrier at said first location;
 - ©) a data base connected to said server, said data base ~~including~~ comprising said file of audio signals and wherein said file of audio signals ~~is sufficient to encode a~~ provides an encoded narrative;
 - (d) means for transmitting said file of audio signals through said common carrier to a user disposed at said second location; [[and]]
 - (e) means for receiving said file of audio signals at said second location; and
 - (f) a transceiver at said second location adapted to transmit said file of audio signals to a third location.

2. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 wherein said common carrier ~~includes~~ comprises a telephone line.

3. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 wherein said common carrier ~~includes~~ comprises an Internet.

4. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 wherein said data base ~~includes~~ comprises a plurality of said files, each of said plurality of files ~~including~~ further comprising a compilation of audio signals ~~sufficient to encode that provide~~ encoded narrative.

5. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 wherein said file ~~includes~~ comprises a short story.

6. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 wherein said means of transmitting said file of audio signals through said common carrier to a user disposed at said second location ~~includes~~ comprises a means for providing said user with said file in real time.

7. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 wherein said means of transmitting said file of audio signals through said common carrier to a user disposed at

said second location ~~includes~~ comprises a means for providing said user with said file in a compressed format that requires less time than is required to listen to said narrative.

8. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 1 ~~including~~ comprising a means for subscribing wherein authorization to obtain access to said file is denied to said user until said user has complied with said means for subscribing.

9. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 8 wherein said means of subscribing ~~includes~~ comprises a monthly subscription.

10. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 8 wherein said means of subscribing ~~includes~~ comprises a subscription for a time interval that is other than monthly.

11. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 8 wherein said means of subscribing ~~includes~~ comprises paying for each access to said system.

12. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 8 wherein said means of subscribing ~~includes~~ comprises means for paying for the amount of time said access to said system is provided.

13. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 12 wherein said means for paying ~~includes~~ comprises providing access via a telephone number that includes a charge that is made for each unit of elapsed time and wherein the elapsed time accrues whenever said user is connected to said server.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 1, wherein said third location ~~includes~~ comprises means for receiving said transmitted file of audio signals from said transceiver and including means for converting said transmitted file into a format adapted for listening to said narrative.

18. (Original) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 17 wherein said third location is disposed in a figurine.

19. (Amended) The selective narrative data base and system of claim 18 wherein said figurine ~~includes~~ is a stuffed figurine.

20. (Original) A method of providing a selective narrative data base and system, comprising the steps:

(a) providing access over a common carrier;

(b) providing a server connected to said common carrier;

©) providing a data base that is connected to said server, said data base including a plurality of files of audio signals sufficient to encode a narrative;

(d) providing means for selecting a particular file of audio signals by a user from said plurality of files; and

(e) transmitting said particular file of audio signals to said user using said common carrier.

21. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, wherein said common carrier comprises a telephone line.

22. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, wherein said common carrier comprises an Internet.

23. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, wherein said data base comprises a plurality of said files, each of said plurality of files comprising a compilation of audio signals sufficient to encode a different narrative.

24. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, wherein said file comprises a short story.

25. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, further comprising a step of providing a means of transmitting said file of audio signals through said common carrier to a user disposed at said second location.

26. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 25, wherein the means for providing said user disposed at said second location comprises a means for providing said user with said file in real time.

27. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 25, wherein the means for providing said user disposed at said second location comprises a means for providing said user with said file in a compressed format that requires less time than is required to listen to said narrative.

28. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, wherein the means for selecting a particular file of audio signals comprises the step of subscribing to an audio file provisioning service, whereby authorization to obtain access to said file is denied to said user until said user has complied with said means for subscribing.

29. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 28, wherein the step of subscribing comprises a monthly subscription.

30. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 28, wherein the step of subscribing comprises a subscription that is other than monthly.

31. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 28, wherein the step of subscribing comprises a step of paying for each access to said system.

32. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 28, wherein the step of subscribing comprises a step of paying for the amount of time said access to said system is provided.

33. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 32, wherein said means for paying comprises a step of providing access via a telephone number that includes a charge that is made for each unit of elapsed time, whereby the elapsed time accrues whenever said user is connected to said server.

34. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 20, further comprising a step of providing a means for receiving the audio signal files by the user at a second location.

35. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 34, further comprising a step of providing a transceiver within the means receiving the audio files, whereby the transceiver is adapted to transmit said audio signal files to a third location.

36. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 35, further comprising a step of providing a means for converting said transmitted file into a format adapted for listening to said narrative.

37. (New) The method of providing a selective narrative data base and system of claim 36, wherein the means for converting said transmitted file is disposed in a figurine.